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Dhaka, Washington working closely to eliminate violent extremism

Bangladesh Ambassador meets US Congress members

Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States Mohammad Ziauddin Wednesday said Bangladesh is closely working with the United States, its neighbors and other friendly countries to root out violent extremism and terrorism.

The Ambassador made the remarks during his meetings with Congressman Joseph Crowley (D-NY), Co-Chair of the Bangladesh Caucus in the US Congress and Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI), Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC) and Sub Committee on Asia and the Pacific at their offices in the Capitol Hill and discussed issues of mutual interests.

During the meeting with Congressman Crowley, referring to the condolence letter of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressed to President Obama, the Ambassador expressed his deep condolence on the recent carnage in a night club in Orlando, Florida.

Ambassador Ziauddin also briefed him on the measures taken by the Bangladesh government on the recent killings of bloggers and atheists by the extremist groups. He reiterated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's 'zero tolerance' against all forms of terrorism and extremism. He said that Bangladesh is working closely with the U.S. and its neighbors and other friendly countries to eliminate extremism and terrorism from Bangladesh and beyond.

The Ambassador also briefed him about the brutal killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members in 1975 and reiterated Bangladesh government's request to extradite the killers of Bangabandhu who are now hiding in the USA.

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During the meeting with Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, both exchanged views on terrorism and extremism. The Ambassador added that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina herself is a victim of terrorist acts. Due to her own tragic experience she has a firm mindset against extremism and terrorism.

He said that the present government is persistently working on education and women empowerment to weed-out the roots of extremism and terrorism from Bangladesh. He said that the government has taken initiatives to introduce modern education for the madrasa students so that they can discard the religious extremism and can adapt with the mainstream society.

The Ambassador further informed that 90% of the RMG workers in Bangladesh are women. These women have stepped out of their homes and are contributing to poverty alleviation, literacy, and above all towards weakening extremism and reinforcing government's efforts to eliminate extremism. Women are transforming the society into a progressive one, which is a solution for ridding the country from all forms of extremism and radicalization.

The Ambassador urged that the US government should consider duty-free quota free access of the Bangladeshi products (particularly RMG) to the US market, which would lead to more women working in the RMG sector and help in containing and eventually eliminating extremism from the country.

Taking careful note of the briefings by the Ambassador, Congressman Crowley said that he would look into the issues. Congresswoman Gabbard also thanked the Ambassador for the briefing on Bangladesh. Mr. Toufique Hasan, Counsellor (Political) of the Embassy accompanied the Ambassador during the meetings.



Meetings with Congressman Joseph Crowley (D-NY) and Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI)

